The United People of Yamato Are the Uniters Of Asia

Nippon Times

Through Unity and Determination to Anglo-Saxon Surrender

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COMMITTEE CHOSEN FOR YASUKUNI RITES TO DEIFY HERO-DEAD

Admiral Sawamoto to Head Special Spring Ceremonies For 20,005 Warrior Souls

Admiral Yorio Sawamoto, Navy Vice-Minister, was appointed Chairman of the Fifth Yasukuni Shrine Extraordinary Grand Festival Committee for the spring of 1944 to solemnize the deification of the 20,005 heroes who gave their lives in the cause of their country in the Manchurian Incident, China Affair and the War of Greater East Asia, it was announced on Friday.

The committee is composed of Colonel Takemaro Sugai and 22 other officers and officials of the Army and Captain Ichiro Yokoyama and eight other naval officers.

To Honor Heroic Warriors

Among the gallant war-dead to be newly enshrined at Yasukuni Shrine on the occasion of the forthcoming Fifth Extraordinary Grand Festival are the late Commanders Saburo Makino, Fusata Iida and Mitsumori Suzuki of the Imperial Japanese Navy who met heroic death at Pearl Harbor after accomplishing brilliant exploits in the historic air attack as commanders of Imperial Naval Air Units.

These heroic Naval airmen, it may be recalled, were posthumously promoted by two ranks by special Imperial Orders in appreciation of their distinguished services.

Other Naval heroes to be deified at Yasukuni Shrine are the late Lieutenant-Commander Hideo Sometani, who distinguished himself in the attack carried out by the Navy para-troops against the enemy airfield in Menado, Celebes Island, on January 11, 1942, and the late Sub-Lieutenant Takuhide Hoashi, who as the commander of a scout plane, was instrumental in the detection of the Prince of Wales and the Repulse, mainstays of the British Asiatic Fleet, which were destroyed by the Japanese Naval Air Units in the Naval Battle off Malai at the outset of the War of Greater East Asia.

The late Major-General Yoshio Ueshima who met heroic death in a landing operation on Luzon Island, the Philippines, carried out immediately after the outbreak of the current war is also on the list of those to be enshrined.

Awed by Imperial Grace

Such is the Imperial Benevolence that in spite of the grim and furious decisive war in which the whole nation is engaged, a Fifth Extraordinary Grand Festival of the Yasukuni Shrine is to be observed. Admiral Yorio Sawamoto, the newly-appointed Chairman of the Yasukuni Shrine Extraordinary Grand Festival Committee, stated Friday upon the announcement of the forthcoming rites.

"We are filled with profound gratitude over the Imperial Benevolence which would thus honor the spirits of the heroes who gave their lives to their country in this war, in spite of the fact that the whole nation is now engaged in a grim and furious decisive struggle.

"I have been overwhelmed by the honor conferred upon me in receiving the appointment of Chairman of the Festival Committee and I keenly feel the gravity of my responsibility. I will purify my body and mind in setting my shoulder to the task so that I may live up to the august expectations of His Majesty the Emperor.

"The heroes to be enshrined at the forthcoming rites are some 20,000 officers and men who were killed in action after brilliant exploits of arms in the Manchurian Incident, China Affair and the War of Greater East Asia. The members of the bereaved families, who are to come to Tokyo to attend the grand ceremony, number about 32,000, most of whom are the aged, women and children. As we must provide against air raids and other emergencies incidental to war, there will no doubt be various inconveniences and discomforts. I earnestly beseech the people of Tokyo and the neighboring areas and of the areas through which they may pass on their journey to accord them every convenience and facility so that they may complete their pilgrimage without a hitch. That will be a way in which we may respond to the Imperial Benevolence and to the wishes of the enshrined heroes."

Chairman for Rites

Admiral Yorio Sawamoto

16TH NAVY AWARDS GRANTED CIVILIANS

Various Grades of Rising Sun Order Posthumously Presented to 428 Sea Heroes

In the 16th Greater East Asia War Posthumous Honors Award, 428 civilians in the service of the Navy, including Kaoru Tomokiyo, chief engineer aboard the X X Maru, who gave his life in the discharge of duty of transporting troops and munitions to the first line, received various grades of the Order of the Rising Sun, it was announced early this morning by the Navy Ministry and the Bureau of Decorations.

The men, thus honored, had been active in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, participating in the operations of the Navy, transporting troops and munitions.

The communique of the Navy Ministry follows:

"Today, the Navy has received the Imperial Command that honors shall be awarded some of the civilians in naval service who died in performance of their duties in the course of the War of Greater East Asia.

"The men, thus to receive Imperial Benevolence, number 428 persons, including Kaoru Tomokiyo, who form a part of the seamen and ship's officers who died in the fulfilment of their duties in various waters since the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia."

Kaoru Tomokiyo, chief engineer aboard the X X Maru, who received the Fifth Class Order of the Rising Sun, and Tokuo Nagata, First Engineer, had been active in various dangerous waters under Nisuke Ono, Captain of the X X Maru, who previously received an Order of the Golden Kite. Braving enemy attacks they transported troops and munitions to the front. They were killed while engaged in a battle with an enemy submarine and aircraft in waters of the Outer South Seas.

Mitsugoro Kohara, Captain of a converted transport, Tsurukichi Nakamura, Chief Engineer of a converted transport, Henji Takedaya, Chief Engineer of a converted transport, and Yuzo Yoshikawa, Captain of a converted transport, who each received the Fifth Class Order of the Rising Sun, were killed while operating in support of the armed forces against enemy submarines in waters of the Outer South Seas.

Lavritchev Leaves Moscow

Special

LISBON, April 13.—Soviet Minister to Bulgaria, Lavritchev, who left for Moscow two weeks ago to report to the Soviet Government, has left the Soviet capital and is expected to reach Ankara toward the end of the week, it is reported from Ankara. The report said that Minister Lavritchev would proceed immediately to Sofia to resume his post there.

Urges Churchill to Quit

Special

STOCKHOLM, April 12.—The British Commonwealth Party held a meeting on Tuesday and passed a resolution requesting Prime Minister Winston Churchill's immediate resignation, says a London report to the Swedish paper, Nya Dagligt Allehannda. No details were given.

Reich Mission in Spain

Special

LISBON, April 13.—A large German trade mission arrived here primarily to arrange increased supply of wolfram in exchange for steel, other metals and machine tools.

OUR AIR UNITS BLAST 18 ENEMY FIGHTERS IN NEW GUINEA AREA

Results Attained in Furious Air Combat Over Wewak: 2 Foe Torpedo-Boats Damaged

Domei

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, April 14.—Engaging in a furious aerial combat Air Units of the Imperial Japanese Forces in the New Guinea area blasted a total of 18 enemy fighters and bombers on Tuesday.

At about 10 a.m. on April 11, the Japanese Air Units encountered a combined formation of more than 90 enemy aircraft, consisting of more than 30 P-47's, 28 B-24's and 40 medium-sized machines, over Wewak, and instantly shot down 17 P-47 fighters and a B-24 bomber after a severe air combat, from which one Japanese plane has not yet returned.

Without suffering any damage on their part, Japanese Artillery Units heavily damaged and set ablaze two enemy torpedo-boats that made a vain attempt to attack a point north of Madang at midnight of April 6.

Enemy Raid Frustrated
By Y. NITTA
Of the Military Press Corps

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN SOUTH PACIFIC, April 13.—Out of about eight enemy Consolidated B-24 planes which came to attack, three were sent hurtling down, Flight Petty Officer H. bringing down two while Flight Warrant Officer K., an experienced air ace of the China Affair, destroyed the third.

The valorous action of the two airmen in guarding the base attests to the importance and responsibility of our air units detailed to fight the enemy in night battles.

On this particular night, layers of clouds made visibility difficult even for the trained eyes of Flight Petty Officer H.'s crew. The enemy planes broke formation before assuming the bombing position. From an altitude of 2,000 meters, Flight Petty Officer H. plunged into the midst of the enemy squadron, singlehanded. One of the enemy machines was caught in our searchlights while shells from the anti-aircraft guns sparkled in the sky.

Just before the enemy plane was able to fly into some protective clouds, Flight Petty Officer H. neared the craft maintaining the same speed as that of the enemy. Suddenly his right hand moved and his gun began to spurt fire and death. Vivid flames streamed out of the enemy machine like the tail of a comet.

Another B-24 which was attempting to escape was severely machine-gunned by Flight Petty Officer H. until it was enveloped in a ball of fire.

In the meantime, Flight Warrant Officer K. espied another B-24 behind him clearly silhouetted against the white cloud banks. Pilotting his plane skilfully, he zoomed past over the enemy plane and showered on him a rain of bullets. The enemy craft instantly went into a spin and plunged into the water. Flight Warrant Officer K. pursued the enemy and ascertained his destruction.

DUTCH PAPER DENOUNCES ANGLO-AMERICAN RAIDS

Terms Air Attack on The Hague As 'Senseless and Criminal' as Many Killed

Special

BERLIN, April 13.—The Anglo-American attack on the city of Hague yesterday was condemned by the Dutch paper, Rotterdamsche Nieuwe Bladet, as "senseless and criminal," according to an Amsterdam dispatch.

It was officially announced that many Dutch civilians lost their lives or were seriously wounded during this terror raid on the Dutch capital. Numerous victims are still reported buried under the debris of collapsed buildings.

The journal wrote, "The whole population of the Hague have risen in indignation against the brutal character of this Anglo-American attack which in a few minutes brought so much despair and mourning to the city's families.

"Everything possible is still being done to rescue from the debris youthful victims, mostly young girls serving in the Dutch civil service. Undoubtedly, many of them will increase the total death figure recorded thus far."

Sweden Given U.S. Pressure Note To Sever Trade Ties With Reich

Action Seen as Move to Enforce Hull's Threat Against Neutrals—Rejection of American Demand Viewed as Beyond Question

Special

STOCKHOLM, April 13.—The British and American note concerning Swedish trade with Germany was handed to the Swedish Government today by U.S. Minister Kerschelv Johnson, which observers interpreted as an action toward enforcing the threat made by Secretary of State Cordell Hull toward neutral Powers in his Sunday broadcast on American foreign policy, a Swedish news agency announced today.

It is recalled that the main point of Hull's speech was that the United States would determinedly insist that neutral Powers cease supplying vital war goods to the Axis countries.

Meanwhile, in Washington, Hull told the press conference today that conversations were proceeding between the anti-Axis allies regarding the supply by neutrals of vital war commodities to the Axis.

Hull said that the conversations were especially concerned with the neutrals within the blockade area, and that talks have already been started with some neutral governments.

Hull's statement was regarded by observers in Washington as confirmation of the reports from London that Britain and the United States are adopting a firmer policy toward neutrals by increasing restrictions on the traffic between Eire and Britain, by bringing heavier pressure to bear on Turkey for the reduction of Turkish supplies of chrome to Germany, and pressure on Spain for reducing wolfram supplies to the Reich.

In view of the Swedish press' criticism of the threat uttered by Hull on Sunday, observers here said that there is no question of the Swedish Government's rejection of the new Anglo-American demand for the suspension of trade with Germany.

They also declared that the Swedish Government before replying to the note will confer with other neutral governments, especially with Switzerland, as Sweden had done in previous cases.

In the meantime, reports from Ankara also indicated the strong Turkish press reaction against Hull's speech.

The newspaper, Tasvil, sharply said that Hull's threat would have only limited effect because severer measures would meant more for home consumption to counteract war weariness in the United States.

The journal, Tan, stressed that after the suspension of anti-Axis deliveries to Turkey, Hull was not at all entitled to object to the exchange of goods between Turkey and Germany. The paper also defended the rights of neutrals.

WALLACE TRIP SEEN TO APPEASE CHIANG

Will Also Probably Aid Stilwell In His Discord With Mountbatten, Iguchi Comments

At his meeting with the foreign press on Friday, Sadao Iguchi, Spokesman of the Board of Information, touching on the projected visit to Chungking of the U.S. Vice-President Henry Wallace, declared that he was probably going to second Lieutenant-General Joseph Stilwell, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. forces in India, Burma and China, in his discordant relations with Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Commander of the anti-Axis forces in Southeastern Asia. Mr. Iguchi further declared that Wallace was probably also going as a sort of appeaser to Chungking, which is worried over the Japanese advance in India.

Referring to Italian King Victor Emmanuel's decision to abdicate "when Rome is entered" by the anti-Axis forces, the Spokesman said that he doubted very much whether such a military development would ever happen. He stated that like Darlan, Giraud and King Peter, the Italian ruler may be "discarded like a pair of worn-out sandals," as the Japanese saying has it.

Concerning a London broadcast, quoting the Berlin radio station, as declaring that President Franklin Roosevelt had departed for the Caribbean area to meet Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Mr. Iguchi was inclined to believe that the story was "a bit fishy" but said that this was quite possible in view of the fact that it was about time for Churchill to pay homage to Roosevelt again. He said that if such a meeting is to be held, it is likely that the reason would be to find some more new excuses for delaying the second front. In this connection, the Spokesman referred to the harsh criticisms against the delay made by the "War and Working Class," the Soviet Trade Union's organ.

During the press conference, the Spokesman disclosed that U.S. Navy Secretary Frank Knox had declared at his press conference that the total United States casualties since Pearl Harbor were now 178,000 and that when the second front was opened the figures would be "enormous." The Spokesman said that this total was too small, considering the heavy losses suffered by the enemy in and since the Bougainville battles, and that these names would appear in the list as second front casualties when it is launched. Today, the enemy is obviously hiding a great part of its actual losses, the Spokesman stated.

ENEMY IS HIT HARD IN SHANSI SECTOR

Chiang, Red Troops Leave 1,406 Bodies on Field; Bandits Crushed Near Anchiu

Domei

TAIYUAN, April 13.—Japanese Forces in Shansi Province, that have been active in mopping up Chungking and Communist forces during March, gained the following results:

Number of engagements, 247 (including 197 with Communist troops); enemy strength encountered, 25,081 (including 17,600 Communists); enemy bodies found, 1,406 (including 780 Communists); prisoners taken, 488 (including 268 Communists). Principal war trophies taken: one mountain gun, one trench mortar, 17 light machine-guns, 20 automatic rifles, 421 rifles, 39 pistols, 78 bayonets, and other arms, munitions and supplies.

Chinese Reds Smashed

Domei

HSUCHOW, April 13.—In the course of mopping-up operations against the newly-organized Chinese Communist 4th Army in the Hualyin district, Kiangsu Province, a Japanese Unit during March accounted for 714 enemy dead abandoned on the battlefield in addition to capturing 37 war prisoners.

War trophies included more than 200 heavy machine-guns and 2,600 hand-grenades, in addition to large quantities of crude oil supplies, fodder, clothing, uniforms and medical supplies.

Enemy installations destroyed comprised more than 10 enemy camps and barracks, 16 arsenals, 17 provision storehouses, seven enemy office buildings in addition to five vessels sunk, of which all are confirmed.

Enemy Bandits Smashed

Domei

TSINGTAO, April 12.—The troops under Li Wen-li, who joined the peace front a year ago, commenced an offensive against the Eighth Route bandits in the Ta-anshan area, 30 kilometers southwest of Anchiu on April 1, and on April 8 completed the operation with success. Up to the present, the following results have been obtained:

Number of engagements, 30, including five principal battles; confirmed enemy casualties, 3,300; enemy bodies found, 500; prisoners taken, 30.

Principal war trophies captured: three Czechoslovakian light machine-guns, 230 rifles, 1,400 rounds of rifle shots, six horses, and other arms and munitions.

Foe in Tsinan Crushed

Domei

TSINAN, April 12.—In concert with the Nanking Peace Preservation Corps, the Japanese Forces are now engaged in mopping-up operations against the Chungking and

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AZAD HIND MEN TAKE MONDAUN IN BURMA AFTER NIGHT ATTACK

Enemy Troops in Buthidaung Sector Retreat to Area of Bawli Bazaar

By N. ONUMA and K. ENDO
Of the Military Press Corps

ON THE KALADAN FRONT, April 13.—Acting in unison with the Japanese Units advancing north along the right bank of the Kaladan River, a powerful unit of the Indian National Army vigorously launched a night attack on the enemy troops at Mondaun, seven kilometers north of Tetoma, and occupied the enemy position there as well as a height northwest of Mondaun on the night of April 12.

After routing enemy troops of 300 moving in the Tetoma sector (12 kilometers south of Kaladan) on March 30, the strong unit of the Azad Hind Fauj that had been advancing northward on the eastern area along the Kaladan River to annihilate troops of the 81st Division of the West African army swept over Mondaun, seven kilometers north of Tetoma, after swift pursuit of the routed enemy, on April 12.

Contacting 500 enemy troops, attempting to cross the Kaladan in the vicinity of Mondaun, the Indian National Army unit, taking advantage of the darkness at night before the rise of the moon, launched a fierce close-quarters charge against the enemy, sinking four enemy barges fully laden with war supplies. The enemy fled in utter confusion, leaving 36 bodies behind.

In this night attack, the war trophies captured by the Indian National Army unit, confirmed up to the present, were three light machine-guns and two automatic rifles, besides numerous rifles, rounds of ammunition and clothing.

Foe in S. Burma Retreats
By K. MURAKAWA, I. WATANABE, O. MARUYAMA
Of the Military Press Corps

ON THE BURMA FRONT, April 13.—Inevitable doom awaits the enemy troops entrapped in southern Burma who, in the face of the fierce and swift advance of the crack Japanese Units, were forced to retreat to the area of Bawli Bazaar.

The British 5th Division and the British-Indian 26th Division even after suffering the annihilation of a division of their troops of the Sinzeiwwa Basin area tenaciously continued their hopeless resistance in the sectors of Buthidaung and Maungdaw with the aim of recapturing the strategic stronghold of Akyab.

In the course of their annihilative operations against these enemy units, our troops shifted their attacks and on April 8 strong Japanese units in the Mayu River area advanced into Kazon, 15 kilometers northwest of Buthidaung. Meanwhile, another Japanese unit captured the north hill of Manamiparedan southwest of Kazon and successfully cut off the retreat of the enemy.

In concerted action, another crack Japanese unit on April 10 opened fierce attacks and, pushing into the area south of Buthidaung, is at present forcing the enemy northward. The completely frustrated enemy troops fearing an attack from behind hurriedly evacuated their gun positions and are at present taking to flight in the direction of Bawli Bazaar.

CANADIAN PRESS ALARMED OVER CHUNGKING'S FATE

Special

STOCKHOLM, April 11.—Following in the footsteps of American newspapers, the Canadian press is manifesting concern over the increasingly difficult situation confronting Chungking, according to a dispatch received here.

Commenting on the recent Tass Agency report which revealed the violation of the Outer Mongolian border by Chungking troops late last year, the Ottawa newspaper Citizen, for instance, editorially claimed that Canada was supplying Chungking with arms and ammunition and declared that "it would be disturbing to find Canadian war materials being used by the Chungking military forces to fight other Chinese or for operations from the Chungking province of Sinkiang against the neighboring Republic of Mongolia."

Japanese Army Planes Gain Control of Skies In Imphal War Sector

Domei

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN BURMA, April 14.—In concert with the advance of their comrade land forces, Japanese Army Fighter Plane Units that have gained control of the air in the Imphal-Palel-Kohima sector shot down one enemy fighter plane on Tuesday morning, while another Japanese Fighter Plane Unit dealt considerable damage to the enemy air force near Homalin on the following day. On Tuesday morning, Japanese fighter planes clashed with three Spitfires and shot down one of them instantly. The other enemy aircraft fled. On the afternoon of the following day, another Japanese Fighter Plane Unit engaged seven enemy P-51 fighters in a fierce aerial combat in the area 40 kilometers southwest of Homalin. Japanese airmen inflicted considerable damage on the enemy who were forced to flee.

DECISIVE STRUGGLE FOR IMPHAL NEARS

Japanese Seizure of Strategic Hill Admitted by Anti-Axis Headquarters

Domei

LISBON, April 12.—Anti-Axis headquarters for Southeastern Asia, admitted that the Japanese Forces had occupied a strategically important hill, northeast of Imphal, while a United Press correspondent in New Delhi reported that a decisive battle for Imphal is imminent, according to information from New Delhi.

Japanese Pushing Ahead

Japanese Forces are rapidly converging on the northern outer defenses of Imphal while the disruption of the Silchar Road by the Japanese is imminent, according to Domei.

Following the capture of Kangratongi, strategic key point north of the Imphal Plains, the Imperial Japanese Units, since April 10, have been concentrating their devastating gunfire on the headquarters of the enemy 4th Army Corps and the 23rd Division located in the mountains approximately eight kilometers northwest of Imphal while those contingents that had been advancing along the Kohima-Imphal Road are at present attacking the outer defense line of the city.

Imperial Units which occupied Tennopal Fortress, fronting Palel, are continuing to exert heavy pressure on enemy troops entrenched at Palel. Meanwhile, other Japanese troops advanced to a hilly zone northeast of Palel on April 10 in a move to encircle the strategic town.

In the southern section, the Japanese Units, driving northward along the Tonzan-Imphal Road, rushed into Imphal basin at a point northwest of Lake Logtak in a pincer movement against the city of Imphal in concert with the comrade units that have penetrated the northern defenses of the city.

The closing-in units which have captured Moroh Hill, ten kilometers northwest of Bishenpur, are steadily advancing to drive a wedge into the Imphal-Silchar Road.

Japanese Success Admitted

Special

LISBON, April 13.—Colonel Henry Stimson, United States Secretary of War today admitted at his press conference that the Japanese Forces had cut the road between Imphal and Kohima, according to a report from Washington.

Stimson, however, continued to conceal the reduction of Kohima by Japanese Forces by stating that the Japanese are "attacking both towns." Stimson warned that there could be no line of defense in the territory such as that which is around Imphal.

"Substantial reserves" of men and material are available in the area, Stimson declared, but he refused to predict the outcome of the fighting at Imphal asserting that "in the middle of a battle there is never anything to be gained by predictions—developing facts best speak for themselves."

Murata Back in Tokyo

Shozo Murata, Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines, arrived in Tokyo at 4 p.m. Friday and called the same afternoon on Kazuo Aoki, Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, at the Ministry.

LAST RETREAT ROAD OF ENEMY MENACED; TERRIFIC BATTLE ON

Cutting by Japanese of Bishenpur-Imphal Route Imminent—Foe at Moiran Withdraw

By S. NAKAJIMA
Of the Military Press Corps

UNDISCLOSED BASE ON INDO-BURMESE BORDER, April 13.—Bishenpur-Imphal Road, the only remaining route of retreat for the enemy 4th Army Corps is on the verge of being cut off as the Japanese Units, which have driven the Anglo-Indian 23rd Division, the 27th Brigade and the 17th Division as well as several other thousand enemy remnants into the Imphal Plains through Torphong, continue their drive northward along the plateau west of Moiran, smashing all resistance offered by the foe.

Meanwhile, other Japanese Units, which reached Moroh on April 10, have been continuing their irresistible march toward the Bishenpur-Imphal Road and the vanguards, since April 11, have been driving toward the same Road from the vicinity of Tailenpokpi, ten kilometers west of Bishenpur, and the Leimatak River, thus threatening the only remaining way of retreat for the entrenched 4th Army Corps.

In face of detour operations of the Japanese Forces, enemy troops at Moiran have already started a northward withdrawal.

Bloody Battle Raging
By S. NAKAJIMA
Of the Military Press Corps

UNDISCLOSED BASE ON INDO-BURMESE FRONT, April 13.—A most sanguinary battle is now raging along the solid enemy positions extending well over ten kilometers east of Palel, a strategic key-point on the Tammu-Imphal Road, where the Imperial Japanese Forces and the mainstay of the enemy 20th Division are locked in a death struggle.

The enemy's defense of Palel consists of a main position at Tennopal, 15 kilometers southeast of Palel, and innumerable positions flanking it as well as a belt-shape line between Tennopal, Saibom, six kilometers northwest of Tennopal, and Shenamu, six kilometers west of Tennopal, in front of which have been laid three-fold barbed-wire entanglements, one of which is of copper to prevent destruction by Japanese wire-cutters.

Moreover, the entire sector is located in a mountainous area 5,000 feet above sea-level. Defying these natural and man-made obstacles, the Japanese and Indian Forces are closing in on Palel by destroying the enemy positions one by one.

The Japanese Units, which penetrated the main enemy position at Tennopal on April 10, in defiance of severe gunfire, have succeeded in reducing numerous pill-boxes in the vicinity under cover of night and are now pressing the enemy to the west.

Other Units carried out a vigorous attack against the enemy's Shitanjao position toward evening on April 11 and engaged the foe in a furious hand-to-hand fight.

Inasmuch as the outcome of the battle for Palel is likely to affect the fate of the enemy 4th Army Corps, the Anglo-Indian troops are offering desperate resistance.

Retreat Route Cut Off
By S. HASEGAWA
Of the Military Press Corps

ON THE INDIAN FRONT, April 13.—The Japanese Army Unit, which blockaded the Imphal-Kohima Road on April 9, this time, have cut the road running between Haochinyon, 20 kilometers northwest of Imphal, and Imphal, the sole enemy retreat route in the eastern plateau.

The Imphal-Haochinyon road broadens out toward the Manipur plains so that motorized vehicles may pass but as it winds toward the hills it narrows down to a bridle-path. Thus, with this road in addition to the Imphal-Silchar road under Japanese control, the tens of thousands of remnants of the defeated Fourth Army Corps of the enemy have been isolated and trapped like rats.

Enemy Artillery Active
By T. OKUBO and M. MATSUDA
Of the Military Press Corps

FOREMOST INDIAN FRONT, April 13.—The rearguard of the enemy 23rd Division entrenched in solid positions defending the narrow pathway leading to the Imphal Plains, southwest of Moiran near Lake Logtak, are continuing desperate resistance against the Japanese Forces by employing heavy

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Press Comments

Friday, April 14

UNITED STATES AND CHUNGKING

MAINICHI—U.S. Vice-President Henry Wallace has told newsmen that he intends to visit Chungking in May or June. The plan originates, of course, with Roosevelt, and even if it is carried out there is nothing exceptional in it. It is the basic policy of the Roosevelt regime to make use of Chungking strategically, politically and even economically to the very limit and for that it thinks nothing of resorting to threats, cajolery, instigation or humoring.

At one time, Britain used to overshadow the United States in the aggression and exploitation of China but, taking advantage of the retreat of Britain from East Asia Roosevelt is developing lively activities to sweep British influence out of Chungking and to strengthen the monopolistic domination of Chungking by the United States.

Public opinion in Chungking has recently become markedly anti-British as a natural consequence of the deceit and exploitation Britain had practised upon China in the past and also because American influence has extended so deeply into Chungking's fabric. Britain has not forgotten the utility value of Chungking but she no longer has the military or economic reserve strength to devote to Chungking, with her own house on fire.

A Chungking newspaper recently complained that even Prime Minister Churchill had insulted Chungking. "When the Chungking mission to England called on Churchill, he, of all things, brought up the subject of mah jong and wasted the precious time which was limited to 20 minutes. When the mission was taking leave, Churchill, jokingly pretended to kowtow to them. What must have been the feelings of the mission when they saw that they were not even being treated seriously? When we must all work earnestly and with confidence in each other it is most disagreeable to hear of such episodes."

We may be able to guess what were the feelings of the Chungking mission when they were played with by crafty Churchill. Nor is it difficult to imagine the reasons for the impudent attitude of high-handed Churchill. For his part, when Britain herself was wandering on the brink of an abyss, he had no time to trouble himself with the affairs of the Chungking regime which can make no contribution to the solution of Britain's problems. As the mission came from the land of mah jong, Churchill thought he would amuse himself with a talk of this interesting game as diversion from the pressure of affairs.

On the other hand, Roosevelt is taking considerable pains to make use of Chungking. He had Chiang Kai-shek participate in the Cairo Conference and had Secretary of State Cordell Hull include Chungking among the "Big Four." Roosevelt has done the best he could to satisfy Chungking's megalomaniacal longings.

There is, of course, a difference between flattering and instigating Chungking and appreciating the strength of that regime. The American military commentator, Hanson Baldwin, in August last year exposed the utter worthlessness of the Chungking army in an article entitled: "Don't Hitch Any Hope on Chungking." Roosevelt did not take the trouble to deny it. Again, an American is reported to have made the remark: "The greater part of the Chungking army is fighting under the leadership of officers and officials full of ideas of using the war to fill their own pockets. The truth of the matter is that we can hope for nothing in what Chungking does." Aside from the question whether this statement was made by Major-General Claire Chennault, commander of the United States Air Force in China, or not, it is just the sort of sentiment that the American war leaders must be entertaining, never having regarded the Chinese as anything more than creatures to be used as coolies or as cannon fodder in the war against Japan.

Roosevelt is no different from Churchill in his contempt for China. Only he has hopes of using Chungking to the limit by sending supplies to that regime on the strength of America's vast resources. The one-sided anti-British opinion in Chungking, utterly oblivious to the great things in store for the rest of Greater East Asia, is quite laughable.

TROUBLE SURROUNDING BADOGLIO REGIME

YOMIURI-HOCHI—In his Easter Sunday speech of April 9, U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull stated that the United States would establish a democratic regime in Italy in accordance with the Moscow Declaration. It is significant that Hull should bring up the Moscow Declaration in this connection. He apparently intended to disguise the real state of relations among the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain over the Italian issue by mentioning that declaration, but the utter incompatibility of the interests of the three Powers is no longer to be concealed.

If the Anglo-American camp really intends to respect the purport of the Moscow Declaration, then it would never have been so panic-stricken by the news of the Soviet Union having established diplomatic relations with the Badoglio regime on March 13. The United States and Britain at that time were in such consternation that they seemed unable to move a finger. The Anglo-American press charged the Soviets with "putting one over on us." The Times, London, said; "The present action of the Soviet Government is an unusual procedure fraught with the danger of bringing on grave consequences and a manifestation to the world that the anti-Axis camp still does not possess a unified policy."

By "establishing a democratic regime," the Soviet Union, Britain and the United States all have different intentions. There is a wide gap between the Soviets and the Anglo-American camp over this matter. Nor can the United States and Britain be said to be necessarily in agreement. It is only natural that there should be friction and antagonism over the affair. That the Soviets should have established diplomatic relations with the Badoglio regime clearly shows their political advance in Italy. When they consider the growing influence of the Soviets over the Mediterranean, the Anglo-American camp cannot afford to ignore the matter.

It is clear what is the intention of the Soviet Government in light of the comment in the Izvestia: "The Soviet recognition of the Badoglio regime is not necessarily a 'legal' recognition. It is a well-known fact that the the Badoglio regime is supporting the reactionary elements of Italy and there can be no question that the regime must be reorganized." True to expectation, even since the Soviets extended their recognition to the Badoglio regime, the Anti-Fascist Military Commission suddenly swerved from its anti-Badoglio attitude to that of cooperation with it. Such developments are enough to make the United States and Britain fear that the Soviets would become the prime mover in the "political reconstruction of Italy."

The United States and Britain have been compelled to consent to the participation of the Soviet Union in the deliberations of the Mediterranean Commission but for their part they must prevent any substantial advance of the Soviet Union into the Mediterranean. If in addition to the establishment of the Communist "Tito" regime in Jugoslavia Soviet influence should penetrate to the Badoglio regime, the effects on the French Committee for National Liberation, too, must be considered. Thus, they are facing the need of re-examining their Mediterranean policy as a whole in relation with the Soviet Union.

The question of the "political reconstruction of Italy" is not merely one that concerns the fate of a puppet regime but one which involves the interests of all the three Powers in the Mediterranean. It is of decisive importance to the United States and Britain because it may extend and intensify the clash of interests between them and the Soviet Union in the Mediterranean. Militarily at an impasse in Italy, they are also facing a big crisis in the political sense there.

HULL'S ATTEMPT TO PLACATE U.S. PUBLIC

TOKYO SHIMBUN—The masses in the United States and Britain are entertaining grave doubts regarding their governments' diplomatic policies. It is in this light, therefore, that we view U.S. Secretary of State Hull's recent speech which, in our opinion, was made merely to placate the American people.

However, Hull's speech, far from soothing the worries and doubts entertained by the masses, will only aggravate their consternation. The American public is worrying because United States' diplomacy has lost its independence, as in the case of Britain, and because of the strained relations among America, the Soviet Union, Britain and Chungking.

Regarding the latter problem, Hull in his speech only mentioned the need of maintaining and strengthening the relations among the "big four" in the anti-Axis camp. It is obvious that such a statement will never satisfy the Americans.

The situation is such that all the desperate efforts of the United States and Britain to revise the Atlantic Charter to fit the changing circumstances, and the policies they might decide upon as a consequence, will never succeed, because they have already lost public confidence entirely.

We all know what the United States is trying to gain in the current war. It is out to monopolize all the oil resources, air lines, ocean transportation routes and the communication systems throughout the world after the conclusion of the war.

It is not necessary here to go into a detailed explanation to prove these wild aims of the United States, but the American attempt to grab the oil resources in West Asia is one striking example. Moreover, it is evident that the United States is attempting to occupy the position formerly held by Britain in the world of shipping.

World control is the war aim of the United States, and, therefore, it is no wonder that the Americans are deeply concerned over the loss of diplomatic autonomy.

In striking contrast is the position of the Soviet Union. It is fully aware of the United States ambitions and is purposely carrying out its own policies independent of America and Britain. As a result, the United States has been stressing recently the need for greater cooperation in the anti-Axis camp. But it is all too clear that America will be the last to cooperate if such cooperation will endanger the materialization of its imperialistic aims.

DOMINION LEADERS LEAVE FOR LONDON

Fraser, Curtin Joining Smuts, King at Empire Conference—Churchill Is Chairman

Special

STOCKHOLM, April 13.—Prime Minister Peter Fraser of New Zealand left for London, while Prime Minister John Curtin of Australia was also on his way to the British capital, according to the London correspondent of the Afton Tidningens.

The report added that Prime Minister Jan C. Smuts of South Africa and Prime Minister William Mackenzie King of Canada are also expected in London soon to attend the Empire Conference which will be held in the near future under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

The topics of the conference it is believed will include the following:

1. To what extent they should continue the war against Japan.
2. The question of the post-war civil air traffic.
3. Establishment of a permanent council among the Dominions which is proposed by Curtin. It is recalled that Curtin's plan was opposed by King who was against the establishment of an united commonwealth diplomacy.
4. The question concerning the post-war trade among the Dominions.

Canada for Independent Stand

Special

LISBON, April 13.—Political developments in Canada may force Prime Minister William Mackenzie King to reject at the coming Empire Conference in London the Smuts-Halifax program of closer empire cooperation and to favor stronger Canadian sovereignty, says a Daily Telegraph report from Montreal, according to London reports.

The paper declares that Canada is being used as a "political football" by England as well as the United States.

It says that Canadian newsprint exports, controlled by the United States, are forwarded only to such Latin-American newspapers which write favorable reports about the United States. In the long run, however, such a policy is most harmful to the Canadian market in Latin-America, the paper points out.

Continuing, it says that when meat-supply shipments from Argentina and Australia to England were suddenly suspended as a result of the closing of the Mediterranean and increased submarine warfare, there arose overnight a tremendous English demand for Canadian beef, pork, eggs and cheese and production was doubled.

"However," the paper writes, "as soon as the shipping lanes to Australia and Argentina became more free again, Canada was forgotten and Australia and Argentina appeared again as normal suppliers.

"This resulted in a tremendous over-production of Canada's meat. Britain complacently explained that due to lack of tonnage it could not ease the situation by transporting the over-production. There were, in fact, sufficient bottoms available but they were directed only to their countries.

"Canadian farmers are now facing problems of how to get rid of their surplus production after the war and are demanding that the Government conduct its own independent Canadian economic and foreign policy at the expense of the empire cooperation."

The paper also points out that King personally expects greater popularity again for his Liberal Party by pursuing such an independent Canadian policy, and then gives a hint to England that the Canadian Prime Minister will most likely carry through the new elections this summer with the help of the new "sovereignty program."

Britain Is Warned Americans Planning To Destroy Idea of World Cooperation

Special

LISBON, April 13.—A grave warning to the British people was sounded by Don Iddon of the Daily Mail, who from New York reports that influential Americans are backed up by prominent newspapers which are doing everything possible to promote a military American nationalism to destroy the idea of international cooperation, according to London reports.

Iddon warned that the British people must accustom themselves to the fact that the majority of the Americans have never been in favor of international cooperation, and sooner the better.

He said that the American papers with the highest circulation figures such as the New York Daily News, Chicago Tribune and the Washington Times-Herald as well as the Hearst press chain expressed rejoicement over Wendell Willkie's election defeat in Wisconsin in the highest tones of enthusiasm and described this defeat as the best indication that the American people are "returning to sound simple Americanism" thus completely throwing overboard the doctrine of internationalism.

"Large number of politicians especially in the Middle West are making strenuous efforts to turn back the clock with every possible energy and they are obviously successful," he stated.

FIGHTING IN CRIMEA CONTINUES TO RAGE

Soviet Attacks Cease in North Sector of Eastern Front Due to Heavy Losses

Special

BERLIN, April 13.—The prime focal point on the Eastern Front continues to be the Crimean peninsula where the Soviet troops with masses of men and material are trying to force their way to Simferopol, Transocean's military correspondent Walter Plato said today. In the Jassy area and between Stanislav and Brody German-Rumanian-Hungarian attacks proved successful, he stated.

The correspondent described the fighting on the Crimean peninsula as heavy and fluctuating and said that the Soviet forces which were far superior numerically, without heed for their losses, had fought their way through positions at Kertch on the Sivash and at Perekop. German and Rumanian divisions are battling fiercely with the advancing Soviet forces. The correspondent said that Simferopol was obviously the objective of the present Soviet drive and that the backbone of the German defenses was in the region of Sevastopol.

Southwest of Odessa the German forces continue their movement westward according to orders, with the entire operation conducted according to plan and proceeding with perfect smoothness. All materials are being taken along. The German forces stationed on the eastern bank of the Dnieper have been withdrawn, the correspondent said, adding that only local fighting developed between the Dniester and the Pruth.

Northwest of Jassy, terrain reconquered the day before was cleaned out and Soviet counter-thrusts were repulsed. In eastern Bukovina, German units made contact with Soviet spearheads at various points and skirmishes developed.

The correspondents said that new offensive and defensive successes were scored by German and Hungarian troops between Stanislav and Brody and that in the Kovel region more terrain was gained. He stated that in the ruins of the city of Tarnopol the troops of Major-General von Neindorff were fighting stubbornly against materially and numerically far superior Soviet troops. Bomb and shell torn houses of the city are still under Soviet fire which is atomizing the rubble. Dry weather is prevailing along the entire southern sector with the average temperature 15 degrees centigrade. All roads are perfectly dry.

Meanwhile, reports reaching here indicated that all was quiet along the central and northern sectors of the Eastern Front. Reports said that the Soviet offensive in the north was given up, at least temporarily, due to losses which were described as extraordinarily high.

Last Retreat Road Of Enemy Menaced; Terrific Battle On

(Continued From Page 1)

guns and mountain guns ever since they were reinforced at midnight on April 11. The enemy batteries which were pushed back by repeated Japanese onslaughts to a sector north of Moiran are now laying down a severe barrage of gunfire against the foremost Japanese line.

In a desperate attempt to defend this entrance to the Imphal basin, the enemy has been detailing infantry forces and other reinforcements by motor-trucks southward from Bishenpur in rapid succession and the battle of Moiran is progressing with white-heat intensity.

Stimson Bares Casualties

Special

LISBON, April 13.—In obviously understated figures, U. S. Secretary of War Henry Stimson announced today that American army casualties up to March 23, this year, totaled 134,000, according to a Washington dispatch. Figures given were 23,322 as killed, 53,066 wounded, 28,014 missing and 28,230 taken prisoners.

Hangar at Anchorage Burns Down; Damage Estimated at $750,000

Special

LISBON, April 13.—Damage of about $750,000 was estimated today to have resulted from a fire which burned down the Morrison-Knudson Hangar at the Anchorage airport in Alaska, according to an Anchorage report to Los Angeles. The blaze destroyed five planes, 18 aircraft engines, other supplies and equipment. One man was injured while battling the fire which was of unknown origin.

Fuehrer's Headquarters

April 13

In the northern part of the Crimea and on the isthmus northeast of Feodosia, German and Rumanian divisions in embittered struggles repulsed the Soviets who are sharply pressing against our movements of detachment. During the last two days, our plane formations destroyed 82 Soviet tanks.

Northwest of Odessa, our troops on the western banks of the Dnjestr moved into new positions according to orders.

Northwest of Jassy, German and Rumanian troops continued their mopping-up operations and destroyed some enemy groups as well as repulsed the Soviet counter-attacks.

In the eastern Bukovina, fighting contacts occurred in some sectors with the enemy reconnaissance forces. Between the central Dnjestr and the area northwest of Brody, German and Hungarian troops smashed Soviet groups.

Reich Holding Tarnopol

In the ruins of Tarnopol, our heroically fighting garrison defended itself against the enemy attacking with superior infantry and tank forces.

In the Kovel area, our troops repulsed the Soviets in local attacks and repelled their counter-attacks by destroying a great number of tanks.

At the Nettuno beachhead, an enemy attack supported by strong artillery fire was repulsed. Our long-range artillery shelled the harbor district of Anzio and Nettuno and dispersed enemy ships' concentrations. Our bomber and battle-fighter formations during day and night attacked the enemy ammunition and fuel dumps in the Anzio and causing heavy explosions and conflagrations.

On the southern Italian Front, several enemy strong bases were destroyed and a number of prisoners captured during lively reconnaissance and shock troop activity on both sides.

During the attacks made by American bombers against the southeastern Reich territory and central Germany, 51 enemy planes including 38 four-engined bombers were shot down yesterday.

Some British planes bombed the city area of Osnabrueck.

Fast German bombers attacked targets in the London area.

BRICKER IS STRIVING TO OUST ROOSEVELT

Wallace Said Studying Chinese In Preparation for His Trip to Chungking

Special

LISBON, April 13.—Governor John Bricker of Ohio, one of the prominent Republican candidates for the presidential race, said today at Salem, Oregon, that the saying "you can't change horses in the middle of the stream" was a fallacy and that a Republican victory was what the United States needed.

Predicting that an effort would soon be made to represent President Franklin Roosevelt as an "indispensable candidate for a fourth term," Bricker declared, "already an army of payroll patriots of the Potomac are beating the drum." Criticizing the campaigning to keep Roosevelt in the White House, Bricker asked, "If we can't change horses in midstream, I ask why England changed her leadership in the first World War and again this war."

Implying that he was the virile force the United States needed, Bricker said, "With each change Britain strengthened herself and brought new virility into the war effort. I say nothing would strengthen our home front effort, encourage business and bring hope to our boys on the fighting fronts more than a Republican victory this Fall."

Wallace's Future Discussed

Special

LISBON, April 13.—Reliable sources assert that if Henry A. Wallace, Vice-President of the United States, fails to get re-elected he may likely obtain the position of Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, according to reports from Los Angeles to Chungking.

It has been reported lately that Wallace is being promoted for this post by influential members of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and it is said that he will obtain this post for the asking if he does not serve in the United States Government next year. This is widely welcomed because Wallace is an expert on food and agriculture and his international views are well-known.

Although Wallace has traveled widely throughout South America, this will be his first visit to East Asia. One report today states that Wallace has been studying Chinese preparatory to his Chungking visit.

Although there has been no confirmation so far, informed circles are of the opinion that Wallace will most likely visit Moscow after Chungking.

Meanwhile, reports circulated today say that Senator Harry Truman from Missouri may be promoted for Vice-Presidency. The same report adds that some Senate members speculated that Wallace is being asked to "disappear" so that another might be picked for the second place on the democratic ticket during the July party convention.

Quoting unnamed politicians, this report said that if President Roosevelt seeks a fourth term and desires another running mate it would be less embarrassing to make the change while Wallace is out of the country.

Britain Rejects U.S. Demand

Special

LISBON, April 13.—The New York Post printed the sensational story today that the British Government had rejected the request made by the United States that Rudolf Hess, former aide to Chancellor Adolf Hitler, be brought to Washington to give evidence against 30 alleged seditionists whose trial opens next Monday. The paper said that the American Government is anxious to obtain evidence of German activities abroad.

London Is Troubled By Water Shortage Due to Long Drought

Special

LISBON, April 13.—London is faced with a grave water supply shortage, declared Henry Berry, Chairman of the London Water Board, according to the Daily Herald. He pointed out that the River Thames carries only one-fifth of the normal water supply for the people and even the occasional rainfalls have not improved the situation in south England since the drought has already lasted too long. Berry warned that the danger to crops and cattle was growing, while the milk production continues to drop at an alarming figure.

Enemy Is Hit Hard In Shansi Sector

(Continued From Page 1)

Communist remnants in Tsinan Province.

Encircling the enemy Shantung Peace Preservation 24th Brigade operating in the northeastern sector of Huantaihsien on the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway line, the Namba Unit surprise-attacked it at dawn on March 30.

After launching a furious attack against the enemy force at Mochiachuan, the Japanese finally disarmed it. The results gained by the Japanese Forces in this battle were 290 troops taken prisoner, and two light machine-guns, 144 rifles, and 97 hand-grenades captured.

On April 2, the Yamamoto Unit in cooperation with the Nanking Peace Preservation Corps assaulted the bandit force at Sungchuan, Changchinhsien, some 30 kilometers west of Tsinan, and annihilated it, killing 60 enemy troops, capturing, 14 prisoners, and seizing 17 rifles and 300 hand-grenades.

Trapping some 600 bandit remnants in the southeastern sector of Tungpinghsien, Luhsi district, the Handa Unit on the morning of April 2 collaborated with the Nanking Peace Preservation Corps in smashing the enemy. The result was 23 bandits killed, and seven rifles, and 152 hand-grenades seized.

Jewish Firm Fined

Domei

AMSTERDAM, April 13.—The Argentine Government fined the Jewish Colonization Company 103,673 pesos on the charge of fraudulent evasion of taxation, reports the British news service from Buenos Aires.

HANOI RAID DETAILS BLAST FOE REPORT

Railway Intact as Residential Districts Were Bombed, Say F.I.C. Authorities

Domei

HANOI, April 12.—The Government-General of French Indo-China formally denied today the enemy radio broadcast claiming that the American air force had blown up the Hanoi railway during their raid on Hanoi on March 8. The announcement read as follows:

"Reuter dispatches have reported that Lieutenant-General Joseph Stilwell, deputy commander of the anti-Axis forces in Southeast Asia, officially announced that the Liberator Unit of the American air force stationed in China had blasted the Hanoi railway. In this respect, the French Indo-China Government-General denies the truth of the report on the bombing of Hanoi.

"Actually the railways in Hanoi were not the real objects of the bombing. If so, it would have been quite possible to blast a portion of the line running through the city or any of the lines on the outskirts of Hanoi. However, the truth is that bombs were dropped on the most densely populated Annamese section of the city. The number of killed, ascertained up to the present, total 60.

"Camouflaging their actions under the pretext of blasting railways, the anti-Axis planes have repeatedly resorted to outrageous deeds against the general populace both in the French homeland and in French Indo-China.

"Civilized nations have emphatically opposed the prosecution of the war on such brutal, inhuman principles. The only consequence of such deeds is the deepening of the people's indignation against the authors. French, Annamese and other residents of French Indo-China have come to manifest ever increasing loyalty to the authorities."

Soviet Bid Given N. Zealand

Domei

LISBON, April 13.—Fedor Gousev, Soviet Ambassador to Britain, today, exchanged notes with William Jordan, New Zealand High Commissioner to Britain, regarding the opening of diplomatic relations and the exchange of envoys between the Soviet Union and New Zealand, according to a London report.

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UNFAILING SUPPLY OF FOOD IS SCHEME

Cabinet Adopts Measures for Adjusting Marketing and Distribution System

Measures to adjust and strengthen the marketing and distribution system of fresh food articles were adopted by the Cabinet at its regular meeting on Friday and the Board of Information published the details.

The communique issued by the Board of Information follows in substance:

"In order to stabilize the wartime food supply, the Government has undertaken to assure the unfailing supply of fresh food articles in addition to the absolute assurance of the supply of staple food articles, to which end the marketing and distribution system is to be adjusted and strengthened.

"The system under which the prefectural governor is responsible for the planned marketing of fresh food articles will be strengthened. The marketing facilities are to be adjusted and strengthened and the bottoms of steam-and-sail-driven vessels and land transit pronouncedly increased. The public nature of the wholesale market system will be emphasized. The distribution channels will be simplified and contact between the peripheral distributive machinery and the district and neighborhood associations drawn closer. Smoothness of distribution will be assured through comprehensive planning of marketing with due consideration to seasonal circumstances. Seasonal, local and transit conditions will be fully taken into account without undue adherence to any system of nation-wide uniformity of equilibrium, and regional adjustments will be made in distribution.

"To begin with, the six principal consuming cities will be subject to the new measures and the following steps will be taken in regard to vegetables, fruits and fishes:

"The method of marketing control is to be revived. The plans for marketing to the large consuming centers are to be presented to prefectural governors by the Agriculture and Commerce Minister. The prefectural governor will be responsible for the enforcement of the marketing plans of that prefecture and will instruct the prefectural agricultural association to allocate marketing quotas. The Central Agricultural Association in accordance with the instructions of the Agriculture and Commerce Minister will maintain close contact with the prefectural agricultural associations and cooperate in the marketing of fresh food articles. The chairman of the regional administrative council will be empowered to take steps, if necessary, to regulate the marketing of the prefectures under his jurisdiction."

INDIANS IN BURMA MEET

Independence League Members Discuss Mobilization of Resources

Domei

RANGOON, April 12.—The council of representatives of branches of the Indian Independence League throughout Burma which had been going on at X X in Burma since April 8 came to a close on April 11.

The discussions centered on how to carry through a general mobilization of resources of all types which Burma, the theater of war, has at its command. The representatives of various branches of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind debated concrete plans for the practice of the mobilization measure.

As a consequence of the meeting a movement will shortly be conducted for mobilizing Indian people residing in all parts of Burma.

BADOGLIOAN GIVEN POST

Quaroni Named 'Direct Representative' to Moscow

Special

LISBON, April 11.—The Badoglio regime has announced that Pietro Quaroni, until recently Minister to Afghanistan, has been named the regime's "direct representative" in Moscow and that M. A. Kostilev, Soviet expert with the Anti-Axis Advisory Council, has assumed the corresponding Soviet post with the Badoglio regime, according to a Naples dispatch.

The official statement said that the term "direct representative" was used because the exchange was not based on the usual diplomatic protocol and the envoys hence could not be called ambassadors or Ministers.

Marquis Satake Dies

Marquis Yoshiharu Satake, 55, member of the House of Peers, suddenly succumbed to heart-failure, Thursday, at his home in Setagaya-ku. He was a descendant of the feudal lord of the Akita clan.

SLOW TO LEARN

By Cobber

Special to the Nippon Times

Australia, it seems, has acquired another new problem. According to foreign dispatches, the Australian Government has consented to the establishment of The Netherlands East Indies Exiled Government within her boundaries.

However, the Dutch East Indies is under Japanese control, and she is just beginning to tread the path of peace and prosperity under the new administration. And it is obvious that a government without any territory under its jurisdiction nor people to support it is no government at all. What a ghost government can do in such a circumstance is open to question. What help Australia can extend to it is a still greater question!

It is reported that this phantom government is to be headed by Dr. Hubertus van Mook, who played a prominent role in the early Japanese negotiations, which took place before the outbreak of the war. At that time, Japan approached the Netherlands Government with a view to establish friendly economic relations and it was this same Van Mook who unwisely assumed an antagonistic attitude and turned down Japan's amicable proposals. If he had been slightly more broad-minded, if he had possessed a modicum of statesman-like foresight, he could have rendered a valuable service toward the preservation of Dutch sovereignty in the East Indies.

In his capacity as Lieutenant-Governor of the East Indies, Van Mook had been in an excellent position to establish friendly commercial and trade relations with Japan. However, he rejected the fair and just proposals of the Japanese mission which called upon him in 1940. Thus, he missed a golden opportunity to serve his country, and subsequently the Dutch sovereignty over the East Indies was lost upon the outbreak of the current war.

Ironically, though, this man Van Mook is reported to have been assigned to head the new Dutch Colonial Government in Australia. It is difficult for us to keep a straight face on hearing that he has already conferred with General Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the Anti-Axis Forces in Southeast Pacific, on plans for the reoccupation of the East Indies. It seems that Van Mook has not yet profited by his previous costly blunders for he is still unable to realize the real strength of Japan. Apparently, Van Mook does not know about the British impotence in the India-Burma theater of war and he must be very much impressed by America's hit-and-run strategy in the Pacific. Otherwise, he would not have taken the trouble to confer with MacArthur on plans for the reoccupation of the East Indies.

Furthermore, Van Mook must be ignorant of the remarkable changes that have taken place in the East Indies during the short span of two years. Java, for example, now constitutes a land of vital supplies for East Asia's total war effort. According to a Domei dispatch, dated March 8, from Djakarta, formerly Batavia, Java's new industry is producing ship engines, arms and materials for aircraft. Java's railroad and motor traffic systems have been restored to normalcy and her sea traffic is being rapidly expanded. A number of seamen's schools are already in operation and many more are scheduled to be opened shortly.

Borneo, too, is being turned into an arsenal for East Asia's concerted war efforts. Its numerous shipyards are producing a large number of wooden vessels since last summer. Indeed, the East Indies is rendering valuable service to bolster our wartime shipping facilities.

As foregoing examples show, the people of the Netherlands East Indies, who had never been properly treated by the Dutch—whose discontent under the Dutch Government had been reaching bursting point—are now wholeheartedly collaborating with the Japanese in the execution of this great war as well as aiding in the development of their own country. They are voluntarily cooperating with the Japanese because they know that eventually they are to follow in the footsteps of other eastern nations like the Philippines and Burma and be rewarded with unrestricted freedom and independence.

The set-up being as it is, the establishment of the Netherlands East Indies Exiled Government in Australia is utterly meaningless. It only provokes the anger and ill-will of the 60-million East Indians against Australia for fostering the government which they hate. In view of the fact that Australia is economically dependent upon trade with the Dutch East Indies, she should think twice before further provoking the otherwise friendly sentiment of the East Indians.

East Asia Round-Up

Press Prize Created

Domei

SHANGHAI, April 13.—The Continental Military Press Prize has been established by the Press Section of the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in China to be given to Japanese reporters, photographers and cameramen, who have distinguished themselves in the performance of their duties on the China Continent. A committee headed by the chief of the Press Section will select the men who shall receive the honor.

Seamen's Club Opens

Domei

SHANGHAI, April 13.—The opening ceremony of the ¥500,000 First Seamen's Club for mariners from all over Greater East Asia was held here on April 10.

Forming Nippon-Go Schools

Domei

DJAKARTA, April 13.—Two higher Nippon-go schools will be created by the Japanese Military Administration on May 5 in Djakarta and Surabaya.

Bolstering Hsinminhui Drive

Domei

NANKING, April 13.—Policies for the enhancement of the Hsinminhui Movement will be discussed at the youth's corps conference taking place here on May 5.

Pass Cultural Exams

Domei

MANILA, April 13.—A total of 60 young men has passed the entrance examination for the Cultural Institute at Tagaytay, Cavite Province, where they will undergo intensive training to prepare themselves for service to the independent Republic. The Institute will be opened on April 16.

Buddhist Lectures Given

Domei

PHNONPENH, April 13.—Shundo Tachibana, a Buddhist priest, who was dispatched to French Indo-China by the Japan Buddhist Association visited Ankor Vat on April 9 and lectured on Buddhism in Japan. Upon his return here, he is expected to lecture on Buddhism in Greater East Asia, particularly for the native priests in Cambodia.

Y.M.C.A. Donates Bonus

Domei

MANILA, April 13.—The Young Men's Christian Association recently distributed this year's first quarterly bonus, equivalent to two weeks' salary, to 108 ex-servicemen, war widows and orphans engaged in rehabilitation centers in Manila and Guadalupe.

Dedication Rites Held

Domei

BANGKOK, April 13.—The dedication ceremony of the Taigi Temple where a guardian deity of the Japanese residents in the city is to be enshrined, was held here on April 8 attended by the Japanese Forces stationed here as well as by the Japanese residents.

Dyak Youths Qualify

Domei

PONTIANAK, April 13.—Eight youths of the Dyak tribe recently passed the examinations qualifying them to take up the mariners' training course.

Ricarte Visits Commander

Domei

MANILA, April 13.—General Artemio Ricarte, Filipino patriot, paid a courtesy call on the Supreme Commander of the Japanese Army in the Philippines on the occasion of the anniversary of the fall of Bataan on April 11.

Many Rejoin Constabulary

Domei

MANILA, April 13.—Several veteran constabulary officers have voluntarily rejoined the national police force in order to accelerate the Government's pacification campaign.

Soap Restriction Lifted

Domei

MALANG, April 13.—Clearly indicative of the successful progress of the local light industries and the manufacturing of daily necessities, the Malang provincial authorities have announced that beginning from April 15, all restrictions placed on the buying and selling of soap will be lifted.

Malai School Ready

Special

BAHAU, April 13.—The first school in Fuji village was inaugurated at a simple ceremony held on April 8 officiated by the Governor of Negri Sembilan. The opening of this school marks another milestone in progress of the new farming settlement established for Shonan Catholics in Negri Sembilan Province.

Planning Body Formed

Domei

HSINKING, April 13.—The Manchoukuo Government has established a Planning Committee on Wartime Emergency Colonization to infuse fresh vigor and strength into the third year of Manchoukuo's five-year colonization plan.

Opening Technical School

Domei

SURABAYA, April 13.—A Government higher technical school, with three-year courses in machinery, civil engineering, architecture, electricity and applied sciences will be established here this year.

P.I. INDIANS LAUNCH FUND RAISING DRIVE

Start Goal to Obtain 500,000 Pesos for Presentation to Azad Hind Government

Domei

MANILA, April 13.—On the 25th anniversary of the Amritsar Massacre, today, the branch of the Indian Independence League in the Philippines launched a movement to raise 500,000 pesos among the Indians in the islands for presentation to the Provisional Government of Azad Hind.

At the same time, it issued a call for more volunteers to fight on the side of the Indian National Army.

Scores Amritsar Massacre

Special

MANILA, April 11.—Declaring that the 25th anniversary of the bloody Amritsar Massacre which falls on April 13 bears special watching this year, the Tagalog language paper, Taliba, stated, "The Indians are at present tremendously excited over the current developments—the overthrow of the British rule of 200 years in India by the Japanese and Indian Combined Forces which have successfully pierced through India's western wall of defense."

It is recalled that on April 13, 1919, 20,000 Indians both Mohammedans and Hindus who were meeting peacefully in the Punjab city to celebrate the Indian New Year were mercilessly fired upon resulting in total casualties of more than 2,000 according to "doctored" British reports.

Pointing out that the Indians had in no way provocated the British atrocity, the Taliba declared that the British devils perpetrated that crime because "to the British it was absolutely intolerable to see the Hindus and Mohammedans celebrate a joint festival amiably for the traditional British policy of 'divide and rule' is aimed to antagonize them one against the other and create dissensions and antipathy among these two major groups in India."

Describing the bloody massacre at Amritsar as the "most hideous act of British tyranny," the Taliba asserted, "With the Japanese and the Indian National Army forces continuing their crushing offensive against the British strongholds on Indian territory itself, the 25th anniversary of the Amritsar Massacre holds deep significance this year. Amritsar will be avenged and avenged in full."

Feting Liberation Week

Special

MANILA, April 11.—Enthusiastically following the progress of the victorious Japanese and Indian National Army troops which are reducing one British fortress after another, the Indians here are at present actively observing National Liberation Week which began on April 6 with a new campaign to raise funds to aid the Indian drive to Delhi.

On April 13, a mass meeting is scheduled, marking the climax of the National Liberation Week and at the same time in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the 25th anniversary of the Amritsar Massacre.

Throughout the week, the Indian national flag was displayed in all Indian stores and homes while the Indians eagerly flocked to the Indian Independence League headquarters to hear the latest news flashes from the fighting front.

Meanwhile, the Indians are planning to offer voluntary labor service in order to aid the administration's food drive while at the same time contribute their share toward winning the War of Greater East Asia.

Greater East Asia

EMBASSY SERIES...(IV)

The Embassy of Burma

Far away from the noise and bustle of gay crowds of central and fashionable Kojimachi, the Burmese Embassy nestles on the sunny slope of the fir-crested hillock known as Gotenyama, in Kita-Shinagawa, a suburb of Tokyo. At the main entrance to the spacious grounds is hung a large signboard bearing Burmese characters and the Burmese national symbol of a peacock.

During the day, the front door of the Embassy is left hospitably open so that the visitor needs only to walk into the waiting-room, there to be courteously received by one of the Embassy staff members.

Usually, the visitor is received by Ambassador Dr. Thein Maung in the comfortably furnished Embassy drawing-room. For special occasions the Ambassador has another room; namely, his study. This is a room well worth seeing, for here are displayed many articles brought by the Ambassador from his homeland, 6,000 miles away.

On the wall, facing the Ambassador's desk, is a gold-framed photograph of Dr. Ba Maw, Head of State and Prime Minister of Burma. On the left of the desk is a huge bookcase above which, suspended on the wall, is a lovely picture of a peacock and a peahen, national emblems of Burma. In the right corner of the room is a veritable treasure-house of small Burmese art objects neatly arranged on a small table.

There are three ivory figurines, most delicately carved, of Lord Buddha, two in a reclining position and one in the more usual sitting posture. Placed on a soft silk cushion are jet-black lacquered prayer beads made of small pieces of tightly rolled paper, each containing a sutra. Yet even a more interesting object is a miniature pagoda, only about two inches high, made of compressed powdered flower petals and richly gilted all over. And then there is the small silver incense box of an intricate and delicate design.

Last, but not least, are two small porcelain vases on which are inscribed both Burmese and Japanese characters to which latter the Ambassador points with pride as having been painted by himself on the occasion of his visit to a porcelain factory in Nagoya some time ago. Both Burmese and Japanese characters spell "Thein Maung," and both vases are filled with flowers offered daily at this small household shrine. A pleasant smell of incense fills the air.

The present Burmese Embassy in Tokyo was formerly the property of Baron Masuda, and is built partly in foreign style and partly in Japanese style, of two stories and with many corridors. In all there are about 25 rooms. The Embassy quarters are situated in the "foreign" part of the house, while the Japanese half is occupied by the Ambassador, his staff of 11 Burmese officials, and domestic staff of six Japanese servants.

In this "bachelor" household—the families of all the Embassy staff being in Burma still—of 12 men, between the ages of 20 and over 50, all the rooms are of Spartan simplicity, containing only the barest necessities. The one room, however, receiving tender care is the prayer room on the second floor, in which stands a Buddhist shrine. Here all the members of the Embassy gather for prayers twice a day, upon rising and before retiring. From this practice they have never deviated no matter how busy their day.

The daily routine of the Embassy staff is as follows: Rain or shine, the Ambassador himself rises at 4:30 and when weather permits, watches the rising of the sun. The other members get up around 6, and before breakfast all participate in physical exercises. Leading the drill are the First and Second Secretaries, the former being skilled in gymnastics and the latter a good vocalist.

All members work in the Embassy offices from 9 until 4, with a brief respite at 12 for lunch and at 3 for tea. Supper is partaken of at 5, giving the Embassy staff as well as the domestic staff a long free evening.

The two favorite evening occupations of the Ambassador are entertaining guests at a Burmese dinner and practising golf shots in a corner of the garden.

Assisting the Ambassador in his official duties are the following members:

U Aung Ba, Counsellor
U Tin Maung, First Secretary
U Sein, Second Secretary
U Sein Win Hlaing, Third Secretary
U Ba Maung, Third Secretary
U Than Maung, Commercial Attache
U Min Din, Head Chancellor
U Aung, Chancellor
U Ohn Gaing, Chancellor
Maung Maung Gyi, Assistant Chancellor
Maung Maung Gale, Assistant Chancellor

Future visitors to the Burmese Embassy have a pleasant surprise in store for them—they will be greeted by a pair of living peacocks in all their glory. In an especially sunny spot in the gardens, facing the Embassy quarters, is built a large enclosure complete with a small house. With a proud smile the Ambassador explains: "I'm expecting the birds soon. It's something no other Embassy in Tokyo will have—living emblems of one's country."

OGURA WILL ADVISE MINISTRY OF E. ASIA

New Precedent Seen Set—Shibusawa, Isaka, Kashiwagi To Aid Finance Ministry

Masatsune Ogura, Supreme Economic Adviser to the National Government of China, was appointed adviser to the Ministry of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, and Viscount Keizo Shibusawa, Governor of the Bank of Japan, Takashi Isaka, President of the Japan Economic Federation, and Hideshige Kashiwagi, President of the Yokohama Specie Bank, appointed advisers to the Finance Ministry, on Friday, following the resignations of the former advisers, Kenji Kodama and Norihiko Yatsushiro.

Hitherto, it had been the regular custom for the adviser to the National Government of China to assume the post of adviser to the Foreign Office and the appointment this time of Mr. Ogura to the Greater East Asiatic Affairs Ministry position has established a new precedent. Through this arrangement the close relations existing between the Ministry of Greater East Asiatic Affairs and the National Government of China are expected to be further strengthened.

By the new Finance Ministry appointments, the number of advisers to this Ministry has been augmented to six.

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TOKYO, SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1944

The Retirement of Victor Emmanuel III

At the obvious instigation of Britain and the United States, King Victor Emmanuel III has announced his decision to withdraw from public affairs from the day the anti-Axis forces "enter Rome". Although Crown Prince Umberto is nominally to be set up as Regent under the title of "Lieutenant-General of the Realm", the retirement of the 74-year-old monarch after 43 years of rule means that for all practical purposes the proud House of Savoy has come to an end, as indeed it had already come to a virtual end when it countenanced the capitulation of Badoglio.

This move has been officially explained as having been taken in the interest of "national unity", but the real effect will be to make disunity worse confounded. Real Italian unity was achieved in 1870 by the gruff, straightforward Victor Emmanuel I and the persistent, astute Count Cavour; the weak, befuddled Victor Emmanuel III and the wavering, short-sighted Marshal Badoglio have only succeeded in bringing about disunity and ruin. This is the House of Savoy's version of the old adage of "from shirt-sleeve to shirt-sleeve in three generations".

What the future will bring to the Italian people as the result of this latest development is difficult to foretell, for there are many confused elements in the picture. In the first place, the retirement of Victor Emmanuel III is conditional upon the very problematic fall of Rome. When that event will take place, if ever, cannot be predicted, and until then the situation must become more unstable than ever with the announcement of the temporary character of the existing regime. There is also the conflict of policy between the Anglo-American authorities and the Soviet Union, for although the retirement of Victor Emmanuel III was brought about by the Anglo-Americans for the obvious purpose of preparing the way for the shelving of the Badoglio regime, the Soviet Union had just recently recognized the Badoglio regime for the express purpose of bolstering that regime so that some semblance of unity could be brought about under its aegis. The latest development has served to intensify more than ever the conflicting programs of the Anglo-Americans and the Soviet Union in which the real victims are the Italian people pulled hither and yon by opposing alien forces.

Among the Italians themselves, the announcement of the intention of Victor Emmanuel III to retire will cause increased confusion. Weak as the House of Savoy and the Badoglio regime had become as the result of their capitulation to the Anglo-American invaders, they represented a greater degree of stability and continuity than the various opportunistic, dissident factions such as those led by Sforza, Croce, and others of their ilk. Now with the moderating royal influence gone, these quarreling factions will be able to intrigue and fight among themselves without restraint. There will be no symbol, however weak, of historical authority and tradition to help stabilize the political turmoil.

It was most probably for this very reason that the Anglo-Americans instigated the withdrawal of the king. Having utilized the king and Badoglio to gain control over Southern Italy, the Anglo-Americans are now anxious to throw them aside in favor of even more compliant puppets. For certainly the minute opposition factions, split into small fragments and quarreling among themselves, will be easier to dominate than even the subservient Victor Emmanuel III and Badoglio. Divide and rule—to promote disunity amidst which Anglo-American military authority can prevail unhampered—is the object of the removal of the king.

In an ever rising crescendo, the disastrous consequences of their capitulation to the unprincipled Anglo-American invaders is being dinned into the realization of the Italian people. Famine, humiliation, and political confusion are the only fruits which the invaders have brought. The Italian people must realize now that only a victory of the Axis and the firm, efficient rule of Benito Mussolini as manifested even now in the greater part of Italy can bring about the regeneration which will restore unity and greatness to the entire Italian nation.

Surpassing of the Rice Goal

Minister of Agriculture and Commerce Uchida's disclosure at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting that the goal for this year's Government purchasing of rice has already been surpassed is heartening, gratifying and reassuring news, being as it is proof once again that the vital gear of Japan's food front is fully synchronized with the other essential parts of the nation's mighty war machine. Minister Uchida's matter-of-fact statement that the goal had been surpassed already as of April 9 was of course made possible by the earnest efforts of all those concerned, and particularly of the nation's farmers who have sown, cultivated and reaped with the conviction that their endeavors on the food front were as fully vital for the successful prosecution of the war as the Herculean work of the men and women in the war plants and the effective fighting of the armed forces.

The significance of a satisfactory food situation to any nation at war cannot ever be overemphasized. An army fights on its stomach, and the nation supplying arms and ammunition to that army also operates primarily on its stomach. The food situation naturally is of weighty importance at any time, but in times of war it assumes still greater importance, becoming the fundamental, prime requisite for a satisfactory and effective development of the war program. The news, therefore, that the Government's measures for the purchasing of rice have been so successful and the farming population's cooperation so whole-heartedly given that the projected goal for the year has already been surpassed, is indication clear and definite that the perfectly coordinated Japanese war machine will this year, too, drive forward as powerfully and with as devastating results for the foe as ever before.

As all nations engaged in a major war, even Japan has not been completely immune to some dislocations in its normal peacetime occupational groupings, although they have not been as severe or abrupt as they have been in other nations. As in other countries the peacetime backbone of food production was formed by the young men of the rural population, many of whom today are directly dealing blows on the enemy on the front lines or indirectly doing so by producing arms on the industrial front. War also has deprived the farm of other normally-available factors and normally-anticipated conveniences. The fact that despite such drawbacks, the remaining young men, their wives, sisters fathers and mothers succeeded not only in accomplishing what was asked of them but even supplied the Government with more than the projected goal, attests eloquently to the effectiveness of the methods which can and are more than making up for wartime stringencies.

It is also clear that patriotism had a part in enabling the farmers to go beyond the goal. And that patriotism certainly was not the blind brand of patriotism of merely doing what one is told to do, but a patriotism arising from a clear knowledge of what the nation is fighting for. Unlike the situation confronting the enemy in which even his soldiers so often reveal that they do not know why they are fighting, every Japanese man, woman and child, whether in the firing lines, on the farm, inside the war plants, or at a desk knows that his efforts are an integral part of the nation's drive for the liberation of itself and all of East Asia from the menace of Anglo-American imperialism. This knowledge, then, and a firm faith in the righteousness of the nation's war aims have helped to bring about the satisfactory food situation of the present.

A Year Ago Today

April 15, 1943

The people of western Mengchiang are rapidly forging ahead in their work to increase agricultural output. The Commerce and Industry Office is advancing funds as well as distributing free seeds to the farmers in addition to giving technical advice to help the people.

* * *

Despite her once much vaunted claim of her unlimited supply of petroleum, the United States petroleum resources have been fast dwindling with the prolongation of the war and she must now rely on outside help to cope with the shortage. In 1942 the volume of crude oil that was produced was just sufficient to meet the demands, and her present consumption is being met by oil stocked up during the past several years.

* * *

England's stock of potatoes having already been exhausted there is a possibility that distribution of potatoes may be suspended before the new crop can be harvested.

Britain Views Her Future

Loss of Internal Spiritual Power Is Most Significant Evidence of British Decline

By Dr. KAZUO KAWAI
Written for the Nippon Times and Contemporary Japan

III

More fundamental than the weakening of Britain's political position in the world are the elements of decline which have developed in the economic and social spheres. Her wartime difficulties, such as the insufficiency and precariousness of her food supply and the inefficiency and shortage of her manpower resources with their consequences of military weakness and low industrial productivity, cannot be dismissed as mere temporary phenomena. For it is apparent that even the end of the war will not radically change this situation.

Among the factors which will tend to make Britain's present difficulties permanent is the factor of population. Whereas the population of Britain was once a vigorously expanding one, it has now virtually stopped increasing at the inadequate level of less than fifty million. With a birthrate which gives her an annual increase of only 3.2 per thousand of population, in contrast to the increase of 13.7 per thousand of Japan, for instance, Britain will not be able to keep up the pace of competition with other more virile Powers.

Another factor is her irretrievable loss of shipping supremacy. Whereas Britain's former domination of world shipping contributed directly to her wealth by bringing in rich profits which constituted one of the "invisible" items in her favorable balance of international trade, and also contributed indirectly to her power by enabling her to channelize the flow of world commerce to her own advantage, the reduction of her merchant fleet to about half its former size through the sinkings at the hands of the Axis forces has deprived Britain of this source of strength. With British shipbuilding capacity inadequate to replace the losses while American shipyards are being greatly expanded, Emmanuel Shinwell, the eminent Laborite parliamentarian, lamented in the House of Commons recently that the end of the war would find Britain with only 9,000,000 tons of shipping whereas the United States would emerge with 15,000,000 to 30,000,000 tons of shipping with which to submerge Britain in an unavoidable avalanche of competition in the post-war period.

Even more significant is Britain's loss of control over the international finance. This financial control was based on her foreign trade, which in 1913 amounted to £634,820,000 in exports and £768,740,000 in imports. The discrepancy between imports and exports was more than counterbalanced by the so-called "invisible" items like profits from her shipping business and interest on her foreign investments, which gave Britain a substantial favorable balance of trade. This favorable balance, which in other words meant a net profit, furnished Britain the surplus capital with which to dominate the financial markets of the world.

But the first World War so weakened England that she no longer could produce enough for export but was forced to import increasing amounts of goods from abroad. By 1938 her exports had fallen to £532,490,000, or a decrease of 16 per cent, while her imports had increased to £920,000,000, or an increase of 20 per cent. The only way in which England could meet this unfavorable balance of trade was by selling her overseas investments, which diminished her position as the financier of the world. Moreover, still more overseas investments had to be sold to meet the heavy debts incurred during the last World War.

The presnt war has only accelerated this tendency a hundred-fold. To pay for the supplies she is now drawing from her dominions and colonies and from the United States, England already has had to dispose of her overseas investments to such an extent that whereas these investments amounted to £5,000,000,000 just before the present war, they amount today to only £1,000,000,000. Even this has not been sufficient, and by June 1943 England had fallen in debt to the amount of £1,000,000,000 to her colonies and dominions and £1,100,000,000 to the United States. England has thus fallen from the position of the world's banker to a poverty-stricken debtor nation with no prospects in sight of retrieving her former position.

Least tangible of all but by far the most significant evidence of Britain's decline is the loss of her internal spiritual power. In the heyday of her glory, the English people were full of consciousness of their power. Their government, with its unique parliamentary institutions, was progressive and efficient. Their diplomats were confident and capable. Their literature was rich and buoyant. Their thinkers were creative and original.

Today, in contrast, their inner springs of power are gone. Their government is antiquated and inefficient; parliamentary liberalism can no longer cope adequately with the complex and technical problems of the present world. Their statesmen are confused and apologetic. Today no Adam Smith conceives an original system of economics; no John Stuart Mill formulates an optimistic philosophy of social progress; no Charles Darwin perceives a universal scheme of life. These British thinkers belong to the past. British thinkers of today are insignificant and unknown men wallowing in the wake of the great thinkers of other nations. English literature has lost its virility; it is a literature of defeatism protesting only mildly and vainly against the impotence which has befallen England. England is today a country of old men confused, ineffective, and unable to change, and of youth embittered, frustrated, and without hope.

IV

It is in the light of these inescapable evidences of Britain's vanished power that Smuts and Halifax view the growing power of the United States and particularly of the Soviet Union and come to the conclusion that Britain must adopt some new strategy of power politics which would enable her to counterbalance her weaknesses. This new strategy must needs be of a practical scope well within the limits of Britain's diminished capabilities. No longer can Britain hope to regain her old position of world supremacy, but by this new strategy she hopes at least to preserve a position of approximate equality with the potent rivals who are rising to overshadow her. So while Smuts suggests the general outlines of this proposed new strategy, Halifax tries to marshal behind it the unified and unqualified support of all the Dominions.

What Smuts and Halifax did not explicitly explain but which their line of thought implies are the specific ways in which their policy is intended to operate. First of all is the recognition of the fact that Britain cannot hope in the future to act as the arbiter of the whole world or even of all Europe as in the palmy days of her greatness. Her great mistake in the period between the first World War and the present war was to act as if she could—to make commitments beyond the range of her effective power to carry out—which only resulted in the disclosure of her impotence with its attendant humiliation and worse. It is patent now that whatever commitments Britain had made with respect to supporting the stand of the League of Nations on the Manchurian and the Ethiopean questions, or with respect to upholding the general settlements of Versailles, or with respect to guaranteeing the integrity of particular countries in even Eastern or Central Europe, she simply did not possess the power to carry out these commitments. Her inability to prevent the Anschluss of Austria with Germany or to give military aid to Czechoslovakia and Poland were proofs enough of this fact.

Hence, Britain would now abandon her pretensions in distant parts of the world. This is the meaning of Smuts' conspicuous avoidance of any reference to East Asia. It does not mean that Britain is willing to recognize the right of Asiatic nations to shape their own destiny, however, for Smuts' deliberate exclusion of Chungking from his "trinity" of Powers reveals the arrogant Anglo-Saxon unwillingness to concede any influence to any Asiatic country even though it may be an ally of Britain. But it does imply that in this part of the world Britain would be willing to leave the initiative to at least the United States.

Britain would also refrain from making any commitments in Eastern Europe which she could not hope to back up against the will of the Soviet Union. This is the meaning of Smuts' respectful reference to the strength of Soviet Russia. But while conceding to the Soviet Union a free hand in Eastern Europe, Britain has no desire to see Soviet influence spread any closer toward her own direction. Realizing, however, her inability to maintain by herself a barrier against the Soviet advance in Central Europe, which would entail the permanent establishment of British military power on the Continent or effective commitments in support of buffer states in Central Europe, which in the final analysis mean the same thing, Britain must welcome the preservation of a united and reasonably strong Germany which would automatically serve to block the westward expansion of Soviet influence.

While Britain is engaged in formal war with Germany, Smuts could not of course, in view of his official position, express this idea openly. But the conspicuous absence from his speech of any preference to the demand for the unconditional surrender of Germany, such as had irresponsibly been voiced earlier by some Anglo-American leaders before they fully realized the potential power of the Soviet Union, and his positive statement that the "Germans are a great people and Germany is inherently a great country" suggests that some such idea lay unexpressed in the back of Smuts' mind. In fact Englishmen in non-official positions, like Professor Edward Hallett Carr in his book Conditions of Peace, had already previously argued at length the impossibility of crushing Germany and the necessity of a strong Germany to preserve the "stability" of Europe. But more direct was the immediate response of the London Times to the speech of Smuts in its editorial of December 16, 1943, in which it argued that it is necessary to organize and use German power and ability rather than to extirpate it. Identical also was the stand of The Economist, which argued that an organized Germany is vital for "a future durable peace." Not only the considerations of power politics but the consciousness of the fundamental incompatibility between the Communist philosophy and the British system of capitalistic imperialism must enter into this British predilection for a strong Germany to stand between the Soviet Union and the region of Britain's vital interests.

The kernel of the proposed British policy, however, is that no matter what concessions Britain may have to make in the Pacific to the United States or in Eastern Europe to the Soviet Union or in Central Europe to Germany, Britain must take firm measures to preserve a position of dominance in the vital areas on the western fringe of Europe which constitute the minimum requisite to her continued existence as an important Power. With the western fringe of Europe constituting her bridgehead on the Continent, with her homeland constituting the main base, and with her Dominions and what remains of her colonies constituting the hinterland source of strength, Britain could still play an important enough role in the affairs of Europe to compete with some approximation to equality with the United States and particularly with the Soviet Union as a world Power. This is Britain's ultimate object.

To secure this minimum requirement of a firmly held bridgehead on the western fringe of Europe, Smuts calls upon the smaller "democracies" of Europe to associate themselves with Britain. To this end he tried to dangle before these countries the idea of the similarity of ideology between them and Britain in contrast to the ideological differences between them and the Soviet Union, and he tried to invoke likewise the bogey of the German menace. Thus by both cajolery and by playing on their fears, Smuts would draw and drive the smaller countries of Western Europe into placing themselves under Britain's protective control.

It must have seemed to Smuts that the formation of a British-dominated Western European federation is not beyond the realm of possibility, for in a number of ways these countries in the past had already been drawn toward each other. They were constitutional democracies. They were trading and maritime nations with similar economic interests. All the Scandinavian countries had at one time adhered to the sterling bloc and had made special trade agreements with Britain. The Oslo Agreements had drawn the Scandinavian and the Low Countries together in their commercial policies. After the outbreak of the war, they had been pulled into a unified shipping pool. France had been in full alliance with Britain.

Moreover, although Smuts did not publicly reveal it, behind his vague expressions must lie the specific thought that at least over the smaller countries in Britain's immediate neighborhood, she would still possess the power to exercise effective control. No permanent military establishment on the Continent would be necessary for this purpose. The striking range of sea power off the coast and air power based on the English homeland would be sufficient. Sea and air power within such a relatively restricted radius, unlike a military force on the Continent, would be within the limits of Britain's diminished capabilities to maintain, and would moreover, being out of sight of the peoples of the dominated countries, have the advantage of arousing the minimum of irritation and resentment. Such are the meaning and implications of Smuts' proposed policy.

(To Be Concluded)

SONGS FROM PRISON

By MAHATMA GANDHI

Harmlessness,
Purity,
Truth,
Self-control,
Rendering each man his due:

These,
Saith Manu,
Are the common duty of all the
kindreds of men.

HULL PLEADS FOR UNITY

Speech Amounts to Confession of Poverty of Diplomatic Ideas

By OUR FOREIGN EDITOR

The radio speech delivered by United States Secretary of State Cordell Hull on Easter Sunday only amounts to a confession of the poverty of his diplomatic ideas. The United States is still unable to draw the neutrals to her side in the present world war despite its persistent efforts to bring pressure to bear on them. She has failed to find any way of opening an effective political offensive against either France or Italy. Moreover, she has been confronted by a serious disunity of purpose and action in the anti-Axis camp as regards both the Atlantic Charter and the declaration of the Moscow Conference.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the American attitude toward the neutral nations has been marked by grimness and bull-dog determination, and it is indeed interesting to note that the more vigorous the American pressure the stronger the reaction.

Hull has Spain particularly in mind when he declares in his speech that the State Department has been attempting to reduce the volume of trade between the Axis nations and the neutrals and to increase the cooperation which the Anglo-American countries are receiving from the neutrals. But why is it that despite her present great economic hardships which have been chiefly caused by the unreasonable pressure of the Anglo-Americans, Spain has been upholding her policy of strict neutrality? It is because the neutrals, such as Spain and Argentina, do not place any confidence in the policies of the Anglo-Americans.

Hull's expression of dissatisfaction over the attitude of the French Committee for National Liberation and the Italian puppet regime amounts to his dissatisfaction over the attitude and policies of the Soviet Union and of Britain. While the quarrel between Britain and the United States over the question of control of the French Committee for National Liberation has resulted in British victory, the advance of Soviet power in the Mediterranean area has added to the complexity of the problem. That she was shut out by the French Committee for National Liberation is a matter of "lost face" to the United States, because she is especially appreciative of the big role she played in the military operations in North Africa.

Soviets Act Swiftly

Compared with the slow-moving American diplomacy, Soviet diplomacy has been acting with amazing swiftness. Soviet recognition of the Badoglio regime came like lightning following Moscow's establishment of formal relations with the French Committee for National Liberation. While the Kremlin has been always acting ahead of its rivals, the United States has been playing second fiddle to others, so that there is absolutely no chance for the Washington Government to score any diplomatic victory. And thus Hull has good reason for showing his discontent over the prevailing diplomatic affairs. At any rate, it is a foregone conclusion that the United States would not be able to stop the irresistible march of Soviet diplomacy, insofar as the various puppet regimes are concerned.

The existing relations between the Soviet Union and the United States clearly indicate the conflicting interests in the anti-Axis group although it is described as the "United Nations." And with the progress of the war, the internal discrepancies of the anti-Axis camp will be aggravated. This is why Hull is stressing the need of closer cooperation among the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and the Chungking regime.

The United States had to send Undersecretary of State Edward Stettinius to London because of the existing paradoxical conditions in the anti-Axis group which has been steadily expanding of late. That diplomatic relations between the Kremlin and Washington have run up a blind alley is clearly indicated by the words of British Foreign Secretary of State Anthony Eden: "I have never seen in all my life such a difficult period for British diplomacy as the present." However, his wailing does not only refer to the difficult position of Britain but to that of the anti-Axis nations as well. As shown clearly by the oil question in Arabia, the Anglo-American conflict of interests has been growing with the progress of hostilities.

Nor will this state of affairs be remedied by Stettinius' visit to London. It is generally believed that his object in going to the British Capital is to make arrangements for a meeting among Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt. In another international conference of these three war leaders, the Anglo-Americans are placing their hope of solving the unsolvable problem of disunity in the anti-Axis group. Hull declares in his speech that it is impossible to establish peace unless a durable understanding is reached among America, Britain, the Soviet Union and Chungking regarding their fundamental objects, interests and mutual obligations. But it will be like seeking fishes in the trees to try to establish "a durable understanding" among the four belligerents whose interests are mutually conflicting.

U.S. SHIPPING SUFFERS CREW SHORTAGE

War of Bottoms Is in Essence Battle Between Men

By MASAICHI SUMIDA
(From the Diamond)

To the query as to what 1944 infers, the general response is, "This is a crucial year in the War of Greater East Asia." This observation may be variously interpreted depending upon one's speciality, but I would like to present here a view from the standpoint of shipping.

I do not need to reiterate, statements concerning it officially and privately having been exhausted, that the War of Greater East Asia is a war of ship bottoms. Regarding this phase of the present war we may safely say that America and England face a perilous situation.

Simply stating it, there is a great variance in geographic advantage. The distance from America and England to the battle area in the Pacific is far greater than the distance from Japan to the same fronts, nearly three times farther on the map. This difference in distance does not simply mean that transportation facility, three times in strength, is required; but that it involves all the accompanying problems relative to transportation. America and England, therefore, facing the necessity of transporting their men and supplies over such a great distance are handicapped first of all for not possessing geographic advantage.

Transportation Must Increase

As the war-front widens transportation facility must necessarily be increased. Our enemy has the colossal task of sending an immense number of men through Panama, Suez, Africa and South America. They are compelled to prosecute the war by undertaking maritime transportation, heretofore unheard of and considered an impossibility. Consequently there is a limit to such an attempt. Even now there is apparent an unreasonable strain.

Study of history reveals no instance where an expeditionary force traversing a too distant radius of the sea has been victorious. Applying this historic verity upon the present war we find that America is constrained by necessity to construct ship bottoms on a scale unprecedented in history. In this connection America has announced a huge shipbuilding program and is even giving publicity at home and abroad that its rate of production is according to schedule.

Despite their publicity, however, the known fact is that there is a self-established limit to their productive power. For instance, they must submit to certain limitations relative to materials, equipment, and labor. In such a gigantic shipbuilding program these factors must stand abreast of construction itself. It may happen that the required machinery may not be finished in time, that materials may not be delivered as scheduled, or that labor may be short-handed. Especially in America where production depends on division of labor, in such synthetic industry as shipbuilding, there is extreme danger of the entire work being completely obstructed in the event of a breakdown in even one of the above factors.

Crews Insufficient

Even if America succeeds in overcoming the above-mentioned difficulties there is yet another delicate problem; namely, the providing of sufficient crew for her vessels. A war of ship bottoms means in essence a battle between men and men, between crew and crew. Yet in this basic problem America is at present in a qualm. According to reports America, realizing that the crew she has employed—offering tempting remuneration—among subjects of neutral countries is far short of her requirement, is now rounding up American-resident Chinese and forcibly railroading them into vessels as crew members. If such a situation is America's plight even when her ship bottoms actually put to use are comparatively small in scale one can readily imagine the magnitude of her quandary when her much vaunted shipbuilding program is brought up to schedule. She may have to rest content with mediocre ship's company, but there is a limit even to mediocrity. Therein lies the narrow defile through which she must pass.

There is a limit to the expansion of maritime transportation, beyond which lies the danger of internal rupture. In a situation such as the present war where our enemy must engage in transport and supply warfare on the sea on an unprecedented scale, the strain which is felt cannot be borne over a long period. In 1944 then we shall probably see evidences of this strain giving way at various points in America's desperate attempt at her ambitious but suicidal transportation plans.